

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 01192 201213Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MONROVIA 1192

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON HORN

REFS: (A) STATE 40423 (B) STATE 42000

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL B WAS PASSED TO BRIGADIER GARBA AT ROBERTSFIELD AIRPORT ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY AT 1015 HOURS. AS INDICATED IN INSTRUCTION IN REFTEL A THE MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED IN WRITING DRAWING ON INDICATED PARAGRAPHS. I GAVE GARBA BRIEF BACKGROUND ON GENESIS OF USG POSITION AND HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY MESSAGE DURING COURSE OF DAY AND TRY TO DISCUSS IT WITH HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO.

2. IN FOLLOWUP DISCUSSION WITH GARBA ON SUNDAY EVENING AT 2100 HOURS, HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD "CONSULTED WITH THE SOVIETS" ON THIS INITIATIVE. I RESPONDED THAT WE HAD CONSULTED WITH OUR OTHER WESTERN COLLEAGUES BUT THAT I COULD NOT SPECIFICALLY AFFIRM WHETHER CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN HELD WITH THE SOVIETS.

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3. GARBA SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THIS AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BETTER PREPARE HIM FOR THE TRIPOLI MEETING OF OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE ALSO SAID SPECIFICALLY THE ETHIOPIANS HAD "POSTPONED" COMING TO LAGOS AND HE FELT THAT NOTHING FURTHER WOULD TAKE PLACE PENDING DEBATE AT TRIPOLI.

4. GARBA SAID THAT HE WOULD HOPE TO TOUCH BASE WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM IN LAGOS TODAY, MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, BEFORE GARBA DEPARTS ON TUESDAY FOR THE TRIPOLI MEETING.

5. GARBA HAS BEEN ACCOMPANYING OBASANJO ON A STATE VISIT TO LIBERIA. THE OBASANJO PARTY ARRIVED AT ROBERTSFIELD AT 0950 HOURS SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY, FROM BANJUL AND SCHEDULED DEPART SPRIGGS PAYNE AIRPORT IN MONROVIA AT 1200 HOURS TODAY. IF DEPARTURE IS AS SCHEDULED, THAT SHOULD PLACE NIGERIAN GROUP IN LAGOS ABOUT 1630 HOURS LAGOS LOCAL.

6. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF STATE VISIT ACTIVITIES, WE DID NOT HAVE THE TIME TO GO INTO A THOROUGH REVIEW OF GARBA'S EFFORTS BUT HE SAID HE WOULD DO THIS IN HIS MEETING WITH EASUM IN LAGOS. GARBA APPEARED WILLING TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE AND I ASSUME WILL MAINTAIN HIS USUAL FORTHCOMINGNESS IN HIS DEBRIEFING WITH MY VALUED COLLEAGUE. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SOVIET CONSULTATION AND IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION, IT MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE TALKING POINTS ON THIS QUESTION TO AMBASSADOR EASUM.
CARTER

SECRET

NNN

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